Department of State

POL 14 VIETS

TELEGRAM

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Saigon 9656 10-26-67

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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SP 02,SS 20,
GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,SAH 03,SAL 01,P 04,INR 07,
AID 30,EUR 25,IO 21,RSR 01,/153 W

P R 261110Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9674
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4759
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2921
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1254

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dawn Ingberg DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9656

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: SOUTHERN MONTAGNARD REPRESENTATION IN THE LOWER HOUSE

REF: SAIGON 7532, 8122, 8746, 8839, 9428, 9531

1. FOUR OF THE SIX SOUTHERN MONTAGNARDS ELECTED TO THE LOWER HOUSE ARE FORMER CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES-- Y WICK BUON YA, NAY BLIM, NGUYEN VAN PHIEN AND DINH VAN ROI. THERE ARE ONLY TWO NEW FACES -- RCOM ANHOT OF PHU BON AND LIANG HOT NGEO OF TUYEN DUC. ONLY ONE OF THE SIX, Y WICK, IS A MEMBER OF FULRO. REFTELS

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PROVIDE BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON THE MONTAGNARD REPRESENTATIVES.

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2. THE AVERAGE AGE OF THE MONTAGNARD REPRESENTATIVES IS 37. MOST HAVE HAD SOME SECONDARY EDUCATION, BUT NONE HAS EARNED A FULL SERFND BACCALAURIAT. ALL HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND FOUR, AS STATED ABOVE, ARE FORMER CA DEPUTIES. AS SUCH THEY

APPEAR REASONABLY WELL QUALIFIED. HOWEVER, THESE QUALIFICATIONS ARE NO GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL BE EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE LOWER HOUSE. ALL OF THE FOUR FORMER DEPUTIES WERE RELATIVELY UNIMPRESSIVE PERFORMERS IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. THE ONLY ONE OF LAST YEAR'S DEPUTIES WHO DEMONSTRATED ANY FLAIR FOR POLITICS OR WILLINGNESS TO SPEAK OUT FOR MONTAGNARD IFTERESW WAS KSOR ROT, THE YOUNGEST, LEAST EXPERIENCED AND LEAST WELL EDUCATED. ROT'S ELECTION TO THE UPPER HOUSE WILL ASSURE AN ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF HIGHLANDER INTERESTS IN THAT CHAMBER. FORTUNATELY, THE TWO NEW REPRESENTATIVES, NGEO AND ANHOT, SEEM TO BE MORE IMAGINATIVE AND CAPABLE THAN THEIR OLDER AND MORE

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EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES. BOTH CAMPAIGNED ACTIVELY DURING THE ELECTION. KNOWING THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO GET VIETNAMESE AS WELL AS MONTAGNARD VOTES, EACH COOPERATED WITH ONETOGF THE VIETNAMESE CANDIDATES RUNNING IN HIS CONSTITUENCY. PERHAPS ONE OR BOTH WILL TAKE KSOR ROT'S PLACE AS LEADER OF THE MONTAGNARD REPRESENTATIVES IN THE LOWER HOUSE.

3. KSOR ROT, ELECTED TO THE UPPER HOUSE ON TRAN VAN DON'S SLATE, HAS ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH DON'S FARMER-WORKER-SOLDIER MOVEMENT. THE LIST OF PEOPLE DON BACKED IN THE LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS INCLUDES ALL THE SUCCESSFUL MONTAGNARD CANDIDATES, SOME OF WHOM HAVE INDIVIDUALLY CONFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER FARMER-WORKER-SOLDIER SUPPORTERS IN THE LOWER HOUSE.

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4. JUDGING FROM THEIR RECORD IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AND FROM THE FACT THAT ALL OF THEM FAVORED THE THIEU-KY TICKET, THE MONTAGNARD REPRESENTATIVES WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT ON MOST ISSUES. GENERALLY THEY HAVE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH

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HAVE OCCURRED IN THE FIELD OF MONTAGNARD AFFAIRS DURING THE PAST YEAR. THIS INCLUDES FULRO MEMBER Y WICK. THEY CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE A COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPAROACH TO MINORITY QUESTIONS WHEN THESE ARISE.

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